

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

The Season after Pentecost: A Season of Christ's Hope
9.16.12 - 10.27.12



The Just Shall Live by Faith: Mary and Gabriel

Luke 1.26-38, 46-55 • Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis

The Magnificat

Luke 1.46-55 (ESV)

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on
All generations will call me blessed;
For he who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
From generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
And exalted those of humble estate;
He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
In remembrance of his mercy,
As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham
And to his offspring forever.”



Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis,
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Pray for:

**Gateway Cities of
the 10/40 Window**
... see page 5

**Inner Cities
of America**
... see page 8

**World Impact’s
Ministries**
... see page 10

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The God Whom Earth and Sea and Sky

Words: attributed to Fortunatus, sixth century; trans. John Mason Neale, 1854

The God whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and laud and magnify,
Whose might they own, whose praise they swell,
In Mary's womb vouchsafed to dwell.

The Lord whom sun and moon obey,
Whom all things serve from day to day,
Was by the Holy Ghost conceived
Of her who through his grace believed.

How blessed that Mother, in whose shrine
The world's Creator, Lord divine,
Whose hand contains the earth and sky,
Once deigned, as in his ark, to lie.

Blessed in the message Gabriel brought,
Blessed by the work the Spirit wrought;
From whom the great Desire of earth
Took human flesh and human birth.

O Lord, the Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore.



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The Just Shall Live by Faith: Mary and Gabriel

The concept “impossible” is a well-heeled notion in our society. Its meaning as a term in usage is virtually self-evident among us. For something to be impossible it simply means that it is not possible to be, to exist, or to happen. If something is impossible it means that it is unable to be done or performed, effected; it means that that thing is incapable of being accomplished, that it is utterly impracticable, unimaginable, and insurmountable. Bottom line, if something is impossible, “it ain’t gettin’ done no time soon!”

When Gabriel, who was sent from God, came to Mary to inform her of her giving birth to the Messiah of God, he closed his comments with a phrase: “For nothing will be impossible with God” (Luke 1.37 [ESV]). This is the theme of our Let God Arise! seasonal focus for the next few weeks. Nothing is impossible with God. God can do anything he wills, and no obstacle, issue, impediment, or barrier can block him in the accomplishment of his sovereign work. The One who created the natural laws of the universe can overcome, preempt, or overrule those laws for any purpose his high and holy will determines. He is subject neither to barriers nor to boundaries when it comes to his sovereign design. His word is true, his will is resolute, his power is infinite, and his plan is wise. And, on top of all this, nothing is impossible with him.

This is the focus of our intercession and meditation as we pour out our hearts to the Lord. When little Mary listened to the glorious Gabriel who was sent from the very presence of God to inform her of God’s will, she pondered (as the text implicates) the difficulty for a virgin to give birth to a child. Gabriel’s clear reply reveals God’s absolute confidence when it comes to his will. Not only will the virgin give birth, also her relative Elizabeth, far too old to bear children, she too will give birth to the forerunner of Messiah. It is as if Gabriel said: “If you think giving birth as a virgin is difficult, so is



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the fact of a woman past child bearing giving birth, too. But, she is already pregnant, and God ain't done yet!" Mary, tender, gentle, and submissive, yields to the word of the archangel with the simple reply: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1.38). She would trust the power of God in the Holy Spirit to accomplish all that the Father willed, regardless of how it looked or how difficult it might appear.

Dear friends, the enemy wants to convince us that the salvation of the city is simply impossible, unable to be done, a lost cause, and an insurmountable task. This is wrong; God can win our cities, he can overcome the darkness and doubt, open minds and hearts, deliver people from evil, and transform hearts through the Gospel. Our God is God, and nothing is too hard for him. This month, let's affirm the simple truth of Scripture that served as the foundation of the announcement of the angel to Mary. Our God is working out his will, and nothing shall be impossible for him.

Even in the face of the impossible, we can trust that God to work and to win. As we emphasized our last seasonal focus, the battle truly is the Lord's, and he will win the day.

Let's share the simple heart of faith and submission demonstrated by the young virgin in her amazing encounter with the angel Gabriel. Let us affirm the truth of Scripture, cling to his word, and pray as if we truly believe that with God nothing shall be impossible.

Nothing is too hard for him – not empowering a woman past childbearing age to have a little baby, not enabling a virgin to give birth to the Messiah of God, and not us participating in the evangelism of the cities of America and the world.



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Global Strategic Vision

Pray fervently and in faith for the following *Gateway Cities in the 10/40 Window*. Ask the Lord of the harvest for laborers, increased vision, and manifestations of the Holy Spirit's revelation and power.

- Northern Africa: *Casablanca* and *El Aaiun*
- Middle East: *Mecca* and *Riyadh*
- Central Asia: *Ashkhabad* and *Baku*
- Eastern Asia: *Taipei* and *Shenyang*

Pray fervently for these great cities, supplicating on their behalf before the Lord, asking him to pour out his own dear Holy Spirit upon them, that the Gospel of Messiah Jesus may penetrate every dimension of these societies within each of these influential Gateway cities. Let us entreat the Lord on behalf of these key cities, believing God for his intervention:

- Pray for Northern Africa and for the great cities of *Casablanca* and *El Aaiun*. In *Casablanca*, pray that there would be unity and koinonia in the Holy Spirit among the believers as there is much mistrust and fear between them. Pray that the king and government would recognize the indigenous church, that Moroccan church planters would be raised up, for missionary work to be permitted again, and for tentmakers to be called. Pray that people from all language groups would hear and respond to the Gospel and that Casablangans receiving Bible correspondence materials will not be harassed. Pray also for the Moroccan converts who have relocated to *El Aaiun*. Pray for their strength, growth and protection as they must meet secretly. Pray that the Gospel will be preached to the Sahrawi people (through medical relief, radio, and preaching) and that they will respond positively to Jesus. Pray that the unstable political situation may be resolved.



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- Pray for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit within *Mecca* and *Riyadh*, great Middle Eastern cities. In *Mecca* pray that the enemy would be bound (that the Ka'aba and the mystical powers behind it would be kept from captivating millions of Islamic souls) and the Lord would open the eyes of the Muslims—that those performing the annual Hajj would find Jesus, that the Islamic religious leaders would have miraculous encounters like Paul on the road to Damascus. Pray also for the neighboring city of Medina, Islam's second holiest city. Pray that King Fahd of *Riyadh* would allow Christian worship, pray that the underground church will grow strong and remain vibrant in the midst of persecution, enduring with great joy. Pray for tentmakers to be called to this great city. Pray that those who are persecuting the church (Wahabbi religious leaders and the Mutawwa'in religious police) would encounter the Lord Jesus. Pray that God would break the stranglehold of Islam in educational institutions, which requires that 70% of all education be devoted to the study of Islam; and pray that the Saudi finance deficit would cause them to stop funding the worldwide expansion of Islam.
- Pray for *Ashkhabad* and *Baku*, powerful Central Asian cities. In *Ashkhabad*, pray that God will stir an interest in the Russian Scriptures among the Turkmen, who have been suppressed by the Soviets and are now seeking spiritual things. Pray that their search will show them their need for a Savior and that through them, they will in turn spread the hope of Christ from family to family. Pray too for the many educated people who live there who are open to new ideas—pray that they would seize opportunities to listen and respond to the gospel. Pray for workers to equip the indigenous church. Pray that skilled tentmakers would be called to *Baku*, that the youth of the city might hear the gospel and be saved, and that God would establish an indigenous Azerbaijani church and raise up its leaders. Pray that freedom of religion will continue and anti-Christian



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sentiment will diminish. Pray for the fighting to cease and reconciliation to occur in the Armenian independence movement, and pray for the people who are suffering because of polluted water and land from oil fields and wells which have caused great pollution.

- Pray for *Taipei* and *Shenyang* in Eastern Asia. Pray for the unity of the church and that national pastors and leaders will be raised up in *Taipei*. Pray that the goals of the year 2000 Gospel movement will be realized with the church experiencing much growth and renewal. Pray that the spirit of sophistication will be broken among the young people, and that those who are seeking spiritual reality will find Jesus. Pray for political transition occurring in the midst of serious social problems, especially drugs. Pray for the students in *Shenyang* that are attracted to the supernatural power which Qigong (combination of Chinese martial arts and occultic practices) promises will instead find the power of the Holy Spirit, and that those migrating to the city for work will encounter the Gospel. Pray that the younger leaders in the TSPM movement who seek to preach the gospel will prevail in the current power struggle and that the police will no longer harass and detain these young leaders. Pray for unity among the city's believers and that God will expose the false believers within the church.



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National Strategic Window

Intercede on behalf of eight of the inner cities of America, (*Akron, OH; Toledo, OH; Shreveport-Bossier City, LA; Gary, IN; Lafayette, LA; Charleston-North Charleston, SC; Corpus Christi, TX; Flint, MI; Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR*) that the Christian communities within these cities might rediscover in a fresh way the historic spirituality that flows from the story of God in Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit might ignite fresh movements of vital spirituality and missions outreach in the churches present within these cities, and that the Lord would initiate new thrusts of laborers among the unreached in them.

- Pray for advance of the Gospel by the Church Militant among the poor in these cities, that God would raise up a new generation of radical disciples for Jesus, that pastors and Christians within them will see Christ as he truly is, repent of low, false notions of him, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray that these fresh outpourings will result in worship that honors God in Christ, that new passions to win the lost would be rekindled, and the Word of God proclaimed with power.
- Pray that the enemy would be routed through rich, aggressive preaching and demonstration of the Gospel, that the power of the Holy Spirit would set upon Christians in these cities in such a way that the forces of the enemy would be overwhelmed, confused, and scattered, and that the glory of Christ would be on visible display in neighborhoods that rarely if ever hear of the victorious reign of God in Jesus, and his offer to cleanse the repentant through his shed blood.
- Above all this month, pray for dramatic openness to the Gospel and God's messengers, along with the visitation of the Holy Spirit resulting in the multiplication of both disciples and new churches among the unreached in these cities. Pray that the Father would



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cause express unity among Christians in these cities, and that they would combine their efforts strategically and humbly to advance the Kingdom rule of Christ throughout the cities, from city hall to outlying neighborhoods.



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Regional, Local, and Inter-Ministry Strategic Focus

Let us claim together the power of the Word of God on each ministry area listed below, trusting the Holy Spirit to manifest his wisdom and presence within each area, filling the members who serve within them, and empowering a new generation of believers through them to spark fresh revival and a new awakening among the unreached urban poor within Wichita, and throughout our entire geographic region.

Wichita

- Pray for our fall kids ministry that will start in September. Pray for a building in the N. Estelle neighborhood where we can host club to make it more accessible for kids. Pray for a good church planting strategy to emerge this fall with the families of the kids clubs participants.
- Praise God for a new mobile coordinator! Cliff Bragg, husband of Dee Ann (Stults) Bragg and doctor at the GraceMed Good Samaritan Clinic has volunteered to coordinate the mobile for us. He has stepped in and done an absolutely amazing job of getting things back going. As of last week (Sept. 4), we were up and running again at both Lighthouse and Restored sites. Pray for ideas that Daren and Cliff are tossing around for future opportunities to more effectively serve the medically underserved with ministering Christ as we plant churches!
- Pray for David McCloud as he now is managing both thrift stores. Pray for more volunteers to come fill the holes from our summer staff going back to school. Pray for wisdom as we come up on our three year lease next Feb. 2013 at our Waco store and decide whether to renew the lease or look for another location (preferably where we own the building).
- Pray for our board as we resume our meetings this fall. Pray they would continue to be a strategic and effective part of guiding our ministry (esp. in major decision making, funding, and finding resources that can save us money)



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- Praise God for Justus Scott Busenitz being born to Daren and Tina! He had a rough go of it at first, but is doing great now. He was in the hospital for almost two weeks since he was born four weeks early. He had some seizure activity early on and so they put him on phenobarbital to calm the seizure activity and this has worked very well as far as we can tell. He will have more tests Oct. 3 to see if he needs to stay on the medication and home monitor. Please pray for patience and rest for Daren and Tina.
- Pray for our Wichita missionary retreat in September at MSR. Terry Cornett will be our speaker.

Planted Churches in Wichita

Please pray for our church plants, for their growth and impact on their respective communities, for the glory of God.

- Lighthouse Community Church in Oaklawn: At Lighthouse we are in need of life-changing Christianity. Only the Holy Spirit and willing hearts can make us like Jesus. Please pray that we won't be stagnant, but return to our first love.
- Christ the Victor

TUMI

Satellites, Hope School, and Growth

- Praise God with us for the continuous, steady growth of the number of TUMI satellites in America and across the world (125 satellites, with 10 satellites in countries outside the US [Ethiopia, Ghana, Mexico {4}, Canada {2}, Kenya, Romania, Guatemala, and Honduras]), with approximately 1200 students being equipped for ministry and mission through them.
- Intercede for the entire TUMI satellite network, i.e., the site coordinators, mentors, and students, applications in process, and new sites recently accepted into our family. Pray for their vision, commitment, resourcefulness, and protection as they lead their students into the Word of God more fully.



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- Continue to pray for Andrew and Adria Medlen (and their son, Judah) our new transfers from World Impact St. Louis, and for their smooth transition here in Wichita.
- Thank God for our new support and full-time staff here at National (Bobby Gilmer [Distribution Center], Daniel Davis [son of Dr. Davis] and for their efficient and helpful transition into our work flow, and their contribution to our projects and work.
- Pray for local Wichita TUMI satellites, soon to be four in the metro area, for their funding, leadership, and potential students. Pray for the new TUMI satellites starting in Wichita, especially the satellite beginning at Tabernacle Bible Church this fall.
- Ask God for timely completion of our building's siding repair, and for the construction of our Curriculum Distribution Center, for the architectural and construction ideas, and for God's grace to bring the vendors with the time to complete this facility by September.

New Initiatives and Potential Partners

- Thank God for our Prison Fellowship expansion, and pray for PF's organization and planning, their workers and the prisons they serve, and for smooth operation of our new storage and inventory systems, and our organization processes to continue to meet the goals of the expansion this year.
- Continue to pray for Cathy Allsman's role as Prison Administrator, for her and Don Allsman's ordering challenges, for the PF administrators rolling out the expansion, and for the leaders of both World Impact and PF as they sketch out the specific steps of the California prison outreach, and new possibilities in Florida, Colorado, and Ohio.
- Pray for our new partnership with the COGIC denomination, with the four new sites which are preparing for startups in Louisiana this month.



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- Pray for our partnership with the Evangelical Training Association, who are now sharing Capstone as their leadership training curricula.
- Pray for the spade- and groundwork starting to occur for our 2013 TUMI Satellite Summit, Mission Impossible, for the logistics, speakers, planning, and vision for the time to support our Site Coordinators.
- Pray for the ongoing planning design for The SIAFU Network (pronounced see-AH-foo), an effort to jump-start small group support ministry in local urban churches across the country.
- Pray for Streetlights, the Chicago-based rap music ministry, and for their efforts to develop resources we hope to integrate within our TUMI curriculum.
- Pray for Fernando and Telma Argumedo's future in Las Vegas as they complete their support at TUMI National, and move next month to equip leaders and support their parents there.
- Pray for God's leading for a new Dean of Hispanic Ministries, someone to fill Fernando's space, and oversee the expansion of TUMI satellites among Spanish-speaking countries around the world.
- Pray for our WI Associates program, for the leaders we are befriending and supporting, and for the funding, contacts, and openings they are employing to plant new churches and set up TUMI sites.
- Pray for the continued development of TUMI satellites and the AWANA Malachi Dads program, for the Lord's timing and leading in how these satellites are formed, and for AWANA's vision and effort to make these happen over the next months.
- Pray for God's leading as we pursue translating Capstone into French and Portuguese, and concerning inquiries of starting satellites in Zambia, Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica; pray for timing, contacts, and clear direction as we pursue new relationships.



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- Pray for our connections to empower church plant movements in Los Angeles, Guadalajara, Denver, Colorado Springs, India, and other places considering creating TUMI sites.

Staff and Personal Requests

- Continue to pray for God's healing for Don's nephew, Robert James, recently diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, and for Norma Bridgewater, who continues to recover from various physical and mental health issues.
- Pray for TUMI marriages and families, for their strength, refreshment, protection, and leading as they serve the satellite clientele.
- Pray for Cathy Allsman's physical health and strength.
- Keep praying for Don Allsman's mother, and her ongoing struggle to defeat cancer; pray for her complete restoration to health.
- Pray for Don's upcoming speaking engagements—for inspiration, clarity, and impact.
- Pray for the efforts and planning in constructing our Curriculum Distribution Center, which will enable us to support the Prison Fellowship expansion in California; pray for Joe Graham, our team leader in overseeing the building's construction, and all others who will be contributing to its creation in the coming months.
- Pray for our financial support, and wisdom as we oversee our various projects.
- Pray for our TUMI staff family members who need God's care:
 - ~ Lorna's brother, Odrey, and his complete healing of Lou Gehrig's disease
 - ~ Dan's mother's recovery from hip surgery, and overall health
 - ~ Daniel and his wife Jenn-Elaine, their daughter Nadia, and their baby on the way
 - ~ Carolyn's sister-in-law, Nancy, and healing from recurring cancer



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- ~ Beth's mother, Kathlyn, in her nineties in a nursing home
- ~ Don's family members (Robbie, Alicia, Norma, and the children of deceased Veronica) and all his family members

TUMI Satellites

Please pray that we can open TUMI sites in the 14 California counties where we have no TUMI site, so former released inmates can finish their TUMI training outside prisons. We already have TUMI sites in 10 of 24 counties, so we need to be in the other 14. These include San Bernardino, Orange, Sacramento, and Santa Clara, and San Joaquin counties.

Morning Star Ranch

We have many weekend retreat groups this fall, including church retreats, men's retreats, women's retreats, and school groups. Please pray that each guest will meet with the Lord while at MSR and experience rest and refreshment through Him.

Los Angeles

Kaleo

Please pray for our Kaleo worship team as they look to raise up an entirely new team (consisting of high school students) to replace themselves.

TUMI LA

- Pray that we will successfully follow-up on the many new opportunities for planting TUMI classes and establishing TUMI satellites in Mexico and Central America, and specifically for safe travels, funding, and success for Pastors Hector Cedillo & Alcides Castellanos in their mission to plant a new TUMI satellite in El Salvador
- Pray that we will recruit increasing numbers of target students (among the urban poor) for our L.A. office classes, our church plants, & the downtown rescue missions.



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- Pray for the successful launch in September of Bible studies and TUMI classes for over 200 men in the L.A. Country jails.

LA Christian School

Our theme for this year is “Story.” Pray for all of our staff and students to become better acquainted with the great Story of Scripture!

Watts Christian School

- Pray for our families to be consistent in church attendance.
- Pray for students to have good attitudes at school.

LA Church Plants

- Praise and thanks to the Father for a wonderful Family Camp experience for the Urban Church Association churches. There were 15 churches represented; approximately 1000 people enjoying swimming, worship, crafts, adventure activities and more at THE OAKS. The pastors were amazed and extremely grateful for this opportunity to have their church people be blessed like this. They all say thank you for the prayers and support that allowed for this to take place.
- We have another praise. Through your prayers God has confirmed Yetem Geta and Eric Flores as two new World Impact Associates. Yetem’s vision and task is to reach Ethiopians in LA for Jesus that will lead to new churches being established and a movement taking place. Eric Flores has a vision to reach the homeless, drug addicts, poor, and all peoples in the Venice Beach community. Please pray for wisdom and abundant fruit for the Kingdom as we seek to affirm, release and resource these two church planters.
- The Urban Ministry Institute continues to explode in the prisons and jails here in California. We are just now beginning to see a “trickle” of men being released who have either graduated or have taken classes from TUMI. Pray: 1) that our Urban Churches are ready to



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receive these men into their church communities, 2) housing and jobs can be provided for these TUMI graduates and students, 3) that many will be called to plant and pastor new churches.

Harmony Heart Camp

- Pray for our new support staff members, Nate and Lydia Luers as they adjust to their roles and life at camp.
- Pray for direction, discernment, and wisdom as we look ahead and seek the Lord for where the camp is going and how to get there.
- Pray for cars. Nate and Lydia need a car, after their car was totaled in a accident. (Lydia had three broken ribs and some minor internal injuries, Nate had deep bruising. Both are healing and taking it day by day). Brian and Denise need a midsize/family car after their car broke down in Ohio on their way back from taking Rachel to Taylor University in August.

THE OAKS

- Paul Crockett's father is home and doing better but he is still very weak and needs continual prayer and healing.
- Dave Eddy, Leigh Nelson's Dad – Continued healing as he recovers from surgery.
- Al Ewert – healing from prostate surgery.
- Mary Ellen Fluke (Kim Meidal's 89 year-old grandmother) – serious health problems including pneumonia
- Carmen (CAT's mother) – in a nursing home struggling with multiple health problems
- Mike – lower back pain
- Heather – relief from frequent headaches, hypothyroid, fatigue
- Brooks – healing from continuing back pain.
- Rob H. – healing from headache and neck and back pain.
- Mike Zuniga's mother – serious health issues
- Paul, Carole and Christina – wisdom to find ways to meet Christina's academic & social needs this year.



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- Thelma Taylor (Gene's mother) – struggling with dementia.
- Alisha – as she prepares for her internship with World Impact.
- Jay Hunt – Mom's vision to improve, God bless his family
- Jared and Kim – strength, wisdom and grace for them as they enter into active foster care again.
- Steve – encouragement and strength and wisdom to be an encourager to his family
- Gene – health needs: diabetes, arthritis, heart.
- Jeff and Chris – need direction and focus for their next steps.
- Ben – for encouragement through life's struggles and as he starts a new year of classes at AVC.

Friends and Partners

God's continued leading and direction through our WI national and local Board members, God's blessing, protection, and wisdom for Dr. Phillips and the executive team, for all the Directors of WI ministries nationwide, for all our supporters and volunteers; pray for our partnership churches, here in Wichita and throughout the nation, that God would bless them, empowering them to grow, mature, and multiply so that the Gospel of Christ would spread in their own communities, and from them across the country and world.

Continue to pray for our elderly parents, and for those who have recently lost their parents and other loved ones.

Lift up all those who have recently lost loved ones. Pray that the Lord will comfort all of our family (and their families) during this time of loss and that the Lord will use this time of sorrow to direct the attention of any in their circles who do not know the Lord to our Savior.

Please continue to pray for the health of our ailing parents. Please pray also for all of the parents of staff who are aging and beginning to experience health concerns.



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Please pray for our staff children across the country. Pray for their encouragement, safety, strength, and growth as they serve with their families in the city. Pray that each will follow the Lord's leading in their lives and that all will be radical disciples of Jesus.

For the National Office Ministry

Pray for wisdom for the leadership and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our entire staff. Pray for health, nurture and joy along with vision and encouragement among our staff. Pray for their provision and refreshment as they serve us all!

Pray fervently for God's great favor and leading upon Dr. Phillips, and for strength and anointing as he travels and speaks. Continue to pray for his family, and for all the members of our excellent National Board, and all the ministries, staff, and friends of World Impact.

For World Impact

Please pray for more laborers for the harvest in partnership with World Impact. Pray that we would have more applicants to join World Impact staff.

Pray for God's blessing on our urban church plants around the country, for church plant team leaders and members, for outreaches in new neighborhoods, and prospects of new teams.

Pray for a new level of power and spiritual passion for our workers on the field, for their health and stamina, and for a new vision of how God wants to use them to make disciples of Jesus, both in their own communities and around the world.

Pray for God's financial blessing upon our local and national ministry, that we would gain the resources to do effectively and excellently what God is calling us to do.



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Casablanca

(kas-uh-blan-kuh)

Day 1

Meaning: "white house"
Country: Morocco*
Population: 3,858,000
Poverty: Slums and unemployment
Religious Breakdown:
99.8% Muslim
0.15% Christian
0.01% Evangelical

Status of the church: A few indigenous churches

Major Religious Sites:

Hassan II Mosque (one of the world's largest mosques)
Chleuh Mosque
Grand Mosque

City Significance/History:

The modern city of Casablanca originated from an ancient Berber hamlet called Anfa. Phoenician traders also used this site as a North African port.

Islam is deeply rooted in the culture of Morocco. Most Moroccans firmly identify with Islam even if they do not practice their religion. They proudly make their confession of faith: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet." Devoted and nominal alike have an unquestioning faith in what they have been told and believe Islam is the only true faith.

At the beginning of the century, the French chose the small village of Casablanca for their economic center. The French protectorate lasted from 1912-1956. Today with a population of almost four million, it is by far Morocco's largest, most industrialized and most modern city.

Drawn by economic opportunities, both Arab and Berber migrants from around the country continue to pour into Casablanca. Most of these migrants, fresh from the countryside, are entering a completely different culture from the isolated rural villages.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that people from all language groups would be able to hear the gospel.
2. The few believers mistrust each other and fear that the other will turn them in to the government. This fear hinders believers from meeting together and growing. Pray for unity and koinonia in the Holy Spirit.
3. Pray for increasing numbers to tune their radios to the broadcasts and that Casablancans receiving Bible correspondence materials will not be harassed.
4. Pray that the king and the government would recognize the indigenous church, and that Moroccan church planters would be raised up.
5. Pray for missionary work to be permitted again, and for tentmakers to be called.



El Aaiun

(el I-yoon)

Day 1

Meaning: "water source"
Country: Western Sahara*
Population: 186,000
Poverty: Over 150,000 Sahrawis live in refugee camps in Algeria
Religious Breakdown:
99.8% Muslim
0.16% Christian
0.01% Evangelical

Status of the church: A small underground fellowship

Major Religious Sites:

Central Mosque
Citadel and Mosque (at nearby Smara)

(Disputed Territory)

City Significance/History:

This oasis was little more than a small village until the Spanish developed an administrative, military, and provincial center some 50 years ago. They were seeking to control their interest in the raw materials of Western Sahara, mainly ore.

Western Sahara, located just south of Morocco, is a disputed territory. Morocco has been fighting for control of the land since Spain relinquished it in 1975.

In addition, a referendum has been proposed by the United Nations that would allow the original inhabitants, *Sahrawis*, to decide if they want to be independent as the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. The republic would be governed by the Polisario Front, an 18 year-old guerrilla movement.

Although there is no official capital in this disputed territory, El Aaiun is the political center of the country. It also serves as an export center for phosphates from the Boukra mines.

It is from here that the Moroccan government administers most of their Western Saharan affairs. Mauritania to the south also has interests in this land.

Prayer Points

1. The gospel has never been proclaimed to the Sahrawi people. Pray that it may be preached to them and that the Sahrawis will respond positively to Jesus.
2. Pray that food and medical relief in the name of Jesus may be administered to the Sahrawis suffering in exile.
3. Pray for protection over the small group of Christians who must meet secretly.
4. Pray for the Moroccan Christian converts who have relocated to the city because of job opportunities.
5. Pray for the success of Christian radio broadcasts into the city.
6. Pray that the people may determine their own government and that the unstable political situation may be resolved.



Mecca

(mek-uh)

Day 6

Meaning: "the revered"
Country: Saudi Arabia
Population: 884,000
Poverty: Rare among Saudis, prevalent among 3rd World expatriates
Religious Breakdown:
100% Muslim, the public or private practice of any religion other than Islam is totally prohibited

Status of the church: None known, maybe an underground remnant

Major Religious Sites:

Grand Mosque,
Ka'aba Shrine,
Well of Zam Zam (said to be the well provided by God for Hagar and Ishmael)

City Significance/History:

Mecca is the focal point of Islam. One-fifth of the world's population looks to this city as their most holy site. Devout Muslims pray facing Mecca five times a day, for mosques all over the world are constructed with their front wall facing Mecca.

In 571, Muhammad was born in the city. Disillusioned with the pagan worship of many gods, Muhammad started to preach there is only one God—Allah, the moon god. After traveling around most of Arabia, he returned to Mecca shortly before he died.

At the center of the Grand Mosque's courtyard rests the Ka'aba, the black stone. Islamic tradition says the Ka'aba, a replica of God's heavenly home, was built by Abraham and Ishmael. (Muslims trace their lineage back to Abraham through Ishmael.) The Ka'aba housed some 360 gods, one of which was Allah.

The Koran (Islam's holy book) states that every Muslim must make a pilgrimage (*Hajj*) to Mecca at least once in his life. On the ninth day of the month of Zhul Hijjah according to the Muslim lunar calendar, millions of pilgrims pray on top of Mount Arafat just outside Mecca. This is the world's largest religious gathering. It is unlawful for any Christian to enter this holy Muslim city.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the Ka'aba and the mystical powers behind it would be bound from captivating millions of Islamic souls.
2. Pray that the Muslims performing the annual *Hajj* would be disappointed with the commercialism of the city and that those seeking God would find Jesus.
3. Pray that the Islamic religious leaders and religious police would have miraculous encounters like Paul on the road to Damascus. Without God working supernaturally the city will not directly hear the gospel, except through radio.
4. Pray that King Fahd and the royal family would allow Christians to work, reside, and worship openly in Mecca. Pray for strength for existing believers.
5. Pray for the neighboring city of Medina, Islam's 2nd holiest city.



Baku

(bah-koo)

Day 13

Meaning: "violent winds"
Country: Azerbaijan*
Population: 1,808,000
Poverty: Increased poverty since the fall of the USSR
Religious Breakdown:
80.0% Muslim
17.3% Atheist
2.67% Christian
0.01% Evangelical

Status of the church: Russian Orthodox and Armenian churches, 200 national believers

Major Religious Sites:

Lezgi Mosque,
Dzhuma Mosque,
Adjarbek Mosque,
Snyk Kala Minaret

City Significance/History:

Oil pools allowed people to scoop oil out of the ground and worship their god. A perpetual fire was tended by the priests, as Zoroastrians believed in Ahura Mazda, a god who would send his son as a special "expression" of himself to the lower world. It was believed a virgin would bathe in a lake in the east, become pregnant, and give birth to a son.

Baku, a fortified township, rose and fell as different powers marched through the area. The Persians, Muslims, Arabs, Seljuk Turks, Mongols, and Russians all had control over this low-lying city on the Caspian Sea.

Oil, just below the surface, attracted many into the area 100 years ago. By 1901, Baku supplied a little over half of the world's oil. During World Wars I and II, Baku became an object of military importance. Hitler sent troops to conquer the oil fields, but the Russians held them off at Stalingrad.

For seventy years Baku was connected to the USSR, but now they look to their Muslim southern neighbors for trade and economic assistance.

In 1989 an Islamic higher academy, a madrasa, was opened in the city—the first since all were closed in the 1920s.

Prayer Points

1. Nationalistic hopes have fanned an Islamic revival. Pray that freedom of religion will continue and anti-Christian sentiment will diminish.
2. Pray that the youth of the city might hear the gospel and be saved.
3. An Armenian massacre in the city in 1989 has fanned an Armenian independence movement. Pray for the fighting to cease and reconciliation to occur.
4. There are no Azerbaijani congregations. Pray that God will establish an indigenous church and raise up its leaders.
5. Pray that skilled tentmakers will be called to work in the city.
6. The oil fields and wells have caused great pollution. Pray for the people suffering because of polluted water and land.



Ashkhabad

(ahsh-kuh-bahd)

Day 13

Meaning: "city-in-love"
Country: Turkmenistan*
Population: 407,000
Poverty: Increased poverty since the fall of the USSR
Religious Breakdown:
76.0% Muslim
18.2% Atheist
5.7% Christian
0.01% Evangelical

Status of the church: Russian Orthodox, Baptist, and Charismatic churches, only a few Turkmen believers

Major Religious Sites:
Behaist's Mosque,
Kan Abdul Qasim-Babir Mosque (nearby Anau)

City Significance/History:

The name of the city comes from the tale of two lovers who made Allah mad. Allah turned the woman into a river and the man into a city. A desert was placed between them to separate them.

The Kara-Kum Desert, with its scorching heat, made nomadic life difficult. Water could only be found in a few oases towns scattered across the desert. At the Kopet Dag Oasis in the 19th century, the Russians built a stronghold for their trade interests in Persia. They constructed railways across the desert, causing Ashkhabad to become a growing north/south trade center.

In 1948, an earthquake measuring 9 points on the Richter scale shook apart the mud brick homes, leaving only 12 buildings standing and over 100,000 people dead. From the rubble sprang a new and reinforced concrete city.

With construction of the Kara-Kum Canal, which allows water to flow from the Caspian Sea into the desert, Ashkhabad has a large water source that enables large agricultural projects to develop.

This capital city is famous worldwide for its handmade carpets.

Prayer Points

1. The eldest men in Turkmen society are respected by family and friends. Pray that God will touch these men and that they in turn will spread Christ family to family.
2. Islamic and Turkmen culture had been suppressed by the Soviets—now many are seeking spiritual things. Pray that the search will show them their need for a Savior.
3. Ashkhabad is home to many educated people, who are open to new ideas. Pray for these people to seize opportunities to listen to the gospel.
4. Pray that God will stir an interest in the Russian scriptures available among the Turkmen. Many Turkmen read Russian and can learn about Jesus in the Word. Pray for the translation of the Bible into Turkmen to be completed and effective.
5. Pray for workers to equip the indigenous church.



Riyadh (ree-yahd) Day 6

Meaning: "orchard" or "garden"
Country: Saudi Arabia*
Population: 2,664,000
Poverty: Rare among Saudis, prevalent with 3rd World expatriates
Religious Breakdown:
90.0% Muslim
4.0% Hindu (expatriates)
5.0% Christian (expatriates)
1.0% Evangelical

Status of the church: A few underground believers

Major Religious Sites:
Imam University,
King Faisal Islamic Center,
over 2000 mosques of different sizes

City Significance/History:

Tradition tells of the apostle Bartholomew wandering around Arabia with the message of the Savior. By the 6th century, Christianity was firmly established; however, 100 years later it was completely replaced by Islam, now the official Saudi religion.

A few oases marked the location of a small settlement at the heart of the dry rocky plateau. The coastal areas allowed for travel and trade, but few people ventured through Riyadh.

In 1902, Abdul Aziz recaptured the city from the Ottomans and forever changed its destiny. He designed it to be the national capital, but it still remained isolated and a mud-walled city of a few clay palaces. Jiddah, on the Red Sea, grew but Riyadh saw little change.

Oil brought more wealth—Riyadh started towards modernization in the 1950s. Because of the recent development, it is the most modern capital in the world. Sand and mud walls have given way to marble palaces, mosques, and schools, such as Imam University, a world center of Islamic theology and outreach.

The revenue from oil allowed for this explosion of growth. Even the poor Saudis have benefited from oil. They have moved out of the slum communities into housing provided by the government.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that King Fahd and the royal family would be moved by God to allow Christian worship—this is an important step towards more people hearing of Jesus.
2. Pray that God would continue to shake and transform the Saudi finances (now in deficit). If revenues remain low, then they would have to stop funding the worldwide expansion of Islam. Pray for tentmakers to be called to Riyadh.
3. Pray that the *Wahhabi* religious leader and the *Mutawwa'in* religious police, who are persecuting the church, would encounter the Lord Jesus.
4. Pray that God could break the stranglehold of Islam in educational institutions, which requires that 70% of all education be devoted to the study of Islam.
5. Pray for the underground church to grow strong and remain vibrant in the midst of persecution—that they could endure with great joy.



Taipei

(ti-pay)

Day 21

Meaning: "north Taiwan"
Country: Taiwan*
Population: 3,561,000
Poverty: Economic stability
Religious Breakdown:
70.4% Chinese Folk Religions
24.2% Nonreligious/Atheist
5.0% Christian
2.13% Evangelical

Status of the church: Stagnation in church growth

Major Religious Sites:
Lungshan Temple,
Hsing Tien Temple,
Temple of Confucius

City Significance/History:

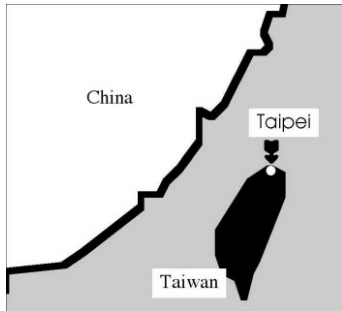
The Chinese, as early as the 17th century, sailed to Taiwan and relocated in Taipei. As the Japanese expanded their influence southward, they made Taipei one of their administrative and economic centers. By World War II, it had grown but remained mainly an agricultural hub where three rivers join.

After Japan was forced to surrender, the Chinese Communist movement continued to grow on mainland China. So the Nationalist Chinese, led by Chiang Kai-shek, were forced to retreat from the mainland to Taiwan. Taipei was chosen as the capital and the city expanded. Universities and industries grew quickly as post-war peace gave way to new hopes and dreams. Many wealthy Chinese fled in fear of the Communists taking all their wealth. These people invested in the development of the new city and nation.

Wide investments and development of industry and educational centers increased the wealth still farther. These advances attracted the rural population. In response, the government started building educational and industrial centers in other cities. This has helped to discourage villagers from relocating. But most still view Taipei as the city of gold, where riches can be found.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that a spirit of sophistication that rejects Christianity can be broken among the young people, so that witness among students will be fruitful.
2. Pray for the political transition occurring in the midst of serious social problems, especially drugs.
3. Pray for unity in the church and that national pastors and leaders will be raised up.
4. Pray that the goals of the Year 2000 Gospel Movement will be realized, with the church experiencing much growth and renewal.
5. There is a resurgence of Buddhism and Animism. Pray that those who are seeking spiritual reality will find Jesus.



Shenyang

(shen-yahng)

Day 21

Meaning: "north bank of Shen River"
Country: China, Liaoning Province *
Population: 5,493,000
Poverty: Communism has provided basic needs
Religious Breakdown:
59.1% Nonreligious/Atheist
30.1% Chinese Religions
6.1% Christian
2.0% Evangelical

Status of the church: TSPM 82,000 members (see [Jinan](#) for TSPM explanation)

Major Religious Sites:
North Tomb (Beiling),
East Tomb (Dongling),
Gugong Imperial Palace

City Significance/History:

Shenyang is the historic cradle of the Manchu people. It was an important city for trade back in the 11th century.

One reason the Great Wall of China was constructed was to protect the Ming Dynasty from foreign invasion. During the 17th century, the Manchus became a formidable and well-organized force, coming from China's northeast. The Ming reign was weakening, and the Manchus were able to conquer the whole country with very little opposition. Many of the leaders that were part of the Ming leadership were killed or submitted to the Manchus. The city became the Manchu capital in 1625.

The Manchus were different—the men shaved their foreheads and a long pigtail flowed down their backs. The Manchu Dynasty (also called the Qing Dynasty) lasted almost two centuries, expanding China's borders to greater lengths than before.

In the 20th century, the Russian and Japanese both occupied the area and started to develop the city as an industrial giant. The city's population exploded because of the converging of six railroads and the industrial expansion.

Prayer Points

1. Qigong, a combination of Chinese martial arts and occultic practices, is making a comeback. Pray that students attracted to the supernatural power which Qigong promises will instead find the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray for unity among the city's believers and that God will expose the false believers within the church.
3. Political motives and connections motivate the older leaders in the Three Self Patriotic Movement. Pray that the younger leaders who seek to preach the gospel will prevail in the current power struggle.
4. Pray that the police will no longer harass and detain these young leaders.
5. Pray that those migrating to the city for work will encounter the gospel.

